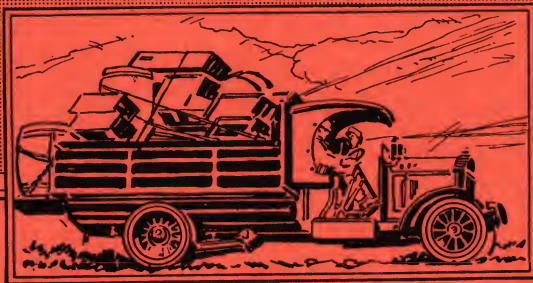
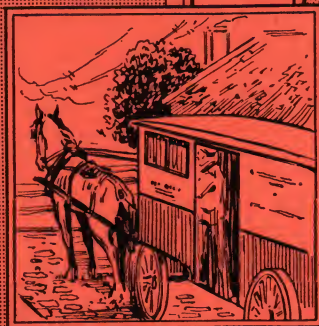
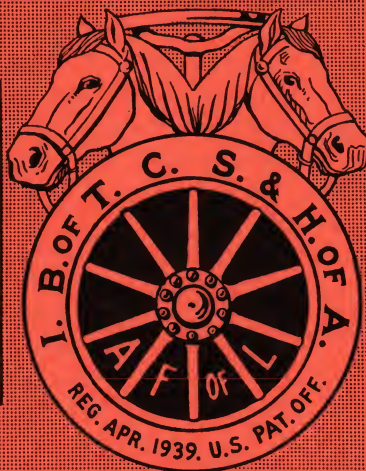


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MARCH, 1940

Official Magazine
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS - CHAUFFEURS
STABLEMEN & HELPERS
of AMERICA**



ALL makes of Trac-Truk of every description, usually employed in construction and excavation, in accordance with the Arbitration Committee dealing with the dispute between our International Union and the Engineers, comes under our jurisdiction. A full text of the decision and its interpretation and the agreement between our International and the Engineers will be published in next month's issue of our Journal.

THERE is great need of extreme care in the observance of all laws and the general conduct of local unions and their officers more so now than ever before in the history of the Labor Movement. Our enemies are watching us. Because of the division in Labor the tide has turned against Labor. States are contemplating adverse legislation. I caution and warn and appeal to our local officers to be exceptionally careful of every act of theirs now and in the immediate future. At our next convention this entire phase of the public mind, the courts, and the employers' associations will be dealt with by the General President. In the meantime, watch your step very closely; stop engaging in "quicky" strikes; observe your agreements and modify your initiation fees to a reasonable amount. Although our laws permit you considerable autonomy on dues and initiation fees, I appeal to you to keep within the bounds of reason lest you may bring about the antagonism of the public generally, and investigations by government officials, also the unjust criticism of writers.

WE NEVER interfere in the affairs of local unions and their officers except in very extreme cases. Local 753, Milk Drivers of Chicago, has always been outstanding in its trade unionism and its humanitarian actions. We are delighted and happy to report to our membership that this local union intends to see to it that Steve Sumner, who for almost 40 years was a guiding spirit and officer of Local No. 753, shall never be in need of anything in the late years of his life. Steve was one of the founders of Local No. 753. His name is national in its scope and he was loved by everyone with whom he came in contact. He was recently retired from the office of Secretary-Treasurer mainly because of his advancing years, but to those who knew him he will always stand out as one of the most unique and lovable characters as well as one of the greatest trade unionists of his time.

● OFFICIAL MAGAZINE ●

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High Court Refuses Picket Case Review

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court of the United States refused to review an injunction issued by the Supreme Court of Illinois restraining an A. F. of L. union from picketing a Chicago beauty shop whose proprietor refused to require union membership by his employees. The union thereupon picketed the shop.

Holding there was no valid union dispute, the Illinois Supreme Court issued an injunction against picketing. In its petition for a Supreme Court review the union claimed the injunction abridged the right to free speech and assembly guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

Assistance for Finns Asked by A. F. of L.

Miami, Fla.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, at its mid-winter session here, urged that the United States extend the fullest possible assistance to Finland in resisting the war of aggression launched by Soviet Russia.

"We urge our Government," the Council said, "to do everything it can without endangering American neutrality to help Finland resist Soviet aggression."

William Green, president of the Federation, said the A. F. of L. favored a loan to Finland for the purchase of arms and war materials, "provided we can do it without violating the neutrality laws."—*News Letter*.

Minutes of Meeting of General Executive Board Held in Everglades Hotel, Miami, Florida, Beginning Tuesday, February 6, 1940

THE General Executive Board convened at 10:00 A. M. Tuesday, February 6, 1940. All members were present. The General President made a general report of the numerical and financial standing of the International Union, which showed that we have been gradually increasing our membership and adding to our strength financially.

The Board decided to set a special order of business for hearing the case of Local 478 of Newark, N. J., for Wednesday evening, February 7. They decided further to meet each day from 9:30 A. M. to 12:00, and then to set the time for further sessions.

The General President read a letter from William Gydesen, chairman of an investigating committee of the St. Paul (Minnesota) Joint Council, in regard to the conditions surrounding Local 778 of Austin, Minnesota. The local union is located in a district which is definitely CIO, and finds it hard to maintain its existence. They have become in arrears in their per capita tax to the International Union, but are paying their current tax and trying to pay something on the back tax each month. They ask if it is possible for the International Union to assist them financially in some way. President Tobin suggested that the matter be referred to the General Office for investigation and whatever action the investigation warranted. There were no objections to this procedure.

President Tobin then read a letter from M. H. Nichols, Secretary-Treasurer of Joint Council 52 of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, asking for the services of an organizer in Canada. President Tobin expressed the belief that there is not much opportunity for organization there now except in the over-the-road trucking line. General Organizer Edward Murphy, who recently visited that district, expressed something of the same opinion and stated that he believed it would be better to leave the situation as it stands for the time being and await further developments. Vice-President Goudie moved that the matter be left in the hands of the Officers in General Headquarters for investigation and action whenever they deemed it advisable.

The subject matter of a dispute between Local 282 and Local 807 of New York City was considered by the Board. This is a case where a dispute arose between the two local unions over a matter of jurisdiction, involving a stoppage of work. The matter was referred to arbitration in the City of New York and a settlement was made temporarily, and the matter referred to the General Executive Board for final settlement. The General Executive Board gave due consideration to the entire subject-matter and heard the representatives of Local 807, consisting of President Devery, Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Hickey, and Business Agent Flaherty. John O'Rourke represented Local 282. The matter involved related to an employer of Local 282 purchasing a certain business which was formerly operated by an employer of Local 807. The equipment did not go along with the transfer of the business. Local 807 contended that even though the equipment did not go along, their men should be allowed to continue at their jobs. Local 282 contended it belonged to members of their organization who were out of work. Motion was made by Vice-President Farrell that the decision of the Arbiter, in this particular case continue as the

action of the General Executive Board. Carried unanimously. What action would be taken in future cases of a similar nature was then thoroughly discussed. President Tobin finally appointed a committee to draft a declaration which would embody the decision of the General Executive Board. The committee consisted of Vice-Presidents Cashal, Conlin, Daniel Murphy and McLaughlin. The committee reported next day the following: That wherever a merger takes place and one employer buys the business and equipment of another employer, and after the transfer of the business the routes and trucks are continued, then the drivers or employes shall maintain and occupy the positions they held. If however, the employer splits up the work or the routes, or divides it amongst other routes, then the employes coming over as a result of the merger shall take their place in that employer's service at the foot of the list of unemployed, and if seniority is the rule their seniority shall rate as of the date of their entering the service of the new employer.

Harry Woods, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 705, Truck Drivers of Chicago, appeared before the Board in regard to a jurisdictional dispute between his local union and Local 362 of Hammond, Indiana, over gasoline and oil tank drivers. The Board heard his case but in view of the fact that Local 362 had no opportunity to present its side of the case it was decided that a conference be held soon, either in Chicago or Indianapolis, at which representatives of both local unions would be present, and endeavor to adjust the dispute existing between the two local unions.

The following representatives of Local 478, Newark, N. J., appeared before the Board: Leo Carlin, President; Fred Carlin, Secretary-Treasurer and Milton Liss, Business Representative. The General President stated that he had a communication from the President of the American Federation of Labor which was sent to him by a public official in Newark, complaining about the deplorable conditions existing within Local 478 and emphasizing the fact that certain individuals were holding office within the local who were anything but a credit to the Labor Movement, etc. The President of the American Federation of Labor referred the communication to General President Tobin, who in turn called before the Board the above named local officers. After discussing the entire situation surrounding the local union it was found that the charges made against a certain officer were not based on fact, and that if the officer had committed any violations of the law as referred to in the communication, that his acts were in connection with strikes and other work of the union. Secondly, the General Executive Board found that considerable disagreement obtained among the officers and that the President of the local union especially had somewhat overlooked the laws in the handling of nominations in the last election of the local union. The General Executive Board decided that the local union be placed under the surveillance and watchfulness of Vice-President and General Organizer Michael J. Cashal. He would act as supervisor, with the right and power to call the local union officers together at any time, to scrupulously watch the affairs of the local union, and to give certain orders and instructions which, in his judgment, were in accordance with our Constitution and in the interest of the membership, and that the officers report to him and carry out his orders and instructions; failing to do so, that the General Organizer report same to the International President and the President stand instructed, upon being satisfied of the failure of the local union or its officers to comply with our laws and with the instructions of Vice-President Cashal, to place

the local union in the hands of a Receiver, and to remove all officers who in the judgment of the General President were responsible for any unsatisfactory conditions within the union. The action of the Board was unanimous and the local union officers pledged themselves to cooperate in every way with Vice-President Cashal and to carry on as advised and requested by the General Executive Board. It must be stated here that the funds of the local union are handled honestly and carefully by its officers.

The General President called to the attention of the Board that in some instances during the past year certain members of our unions, with the approval of their unions, had interfered with members of other local unions, demanding that they cease work in violation of their contract, very often picketing places where our members were loading and unloading. In other instances over jurisdictional disputes between two local unions members of one local were prevented from duly carrying out their contract. Several other forms of interference obtained in addition to picketing. After thoroughly discussing the matter it was moved and seconded that where any local union picketed jobs, called strikes, or interfered with the functions of any other local union without the sanction of the General Executive Board, their charter would be suspended or revoked.

President Tobin reminded the Board of the case in Portland, Oregon, and the suggestion of Attorney Padway that financial assistance be given the Labor Movement in that district. It was moved and seconded that the sum of \$1,000 be donated by the International Union to the Labor Movement in the State of Oregon, in order to enable it to bring to the higher courts the question of the validity of the law recently passed in Oregon against labor unions appealing the anti-picketing law to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The appeal for financial assistance made by Local 587, Taxi Cab Drivers of Kansas City, Missouri, was next presented by the General President. After thoroughly discussing the matter it was moved and seconded that because an illegal action on the part of the local union was the cause of their recent trouble, their request be denied. An appeal made by the Business Agent of Local 587 in connection with their recent election was referred to the General Office for action.

Organizer Dave Beck of Seattle, Washington, presented to the Board a request coming from the local unions of the State of Montana, for a Joint Council charter covering the local unions of Butte and vicinity. After explaining the need for such a Council and after a discussion of the matter by the Board, it was moved and seconded that a Joint Council charter be granted as requested.

Brother O'Brien of Local 710 of Chicago, Illinois, appeared before the Board requesting that consideration be given to the issuance of a charter to be located in Chicago in the Stock Yards district, the membership to consist of those engaged in hauling live stock from different points in Illinois, Indiana, and other States nearby, and that jurisdiction cover all men hauling live stock in and out of the Chicago Stock Yards, even though some of those men may come from different points bordering the State of Illinois. It is the opinion of the Board that this field needs organizing and that it can only be properly organized by centering the operation of organization and the charter in the Stock Yards district in Chicago and under the supervision of the officers of Local 710, Packing House Drivers and Helpers. It is also necessary that organization proceed as soon as possible and the lines of demarcation as to charter rights and jurisdiction

be left to the International Executive Officers working in conjunction with the officers of Local 710. All this is necessary in the opinion of the General Executive Board in order to better conditions of these men, which are now bordering on slavery, and in order to prevent some other organization from getting control of this ever-increasing industry of hauling live stock to the stock yards and slaughter houses of Chicago. The General Executive Board therefore decided that the charter be installed with instructions that the General Officers draft lines of demarcation outlining the jurisdiction and authority of the local union.

Brother L. J. Camie of Local 600, St. Louis, Missouri, appeared before the General Executive Board on the invitation and request of the General President, in regard to a grievance which has entailed considerable correspondence between the General President and the representative of Local 600. The question of transfers, or refusing transfers into Local 600, was discussed. Camie made a lengthy explanation of the methods and system obtaining in Local 600. He stated it was not their desire to refuse transfers generally but that there were extenuating circumstances surrounding the individual case under discussion. The General Executive Board made the following declaration and decision: That insofar as it is humanly possible the transfer card be recognized by all local unions, with the understanding that the Constitution of the International Union and its provisions be observed; that under no circumstances should any applicant for entrance into another union be charged extra fees or initiation in order to have his transfer card accepted; that the foundation of the International Union was based upon the acceptance of transfer cards, and if today any local union may hesitate about accepting a transfer card because of the unemployment among their members, that same local union may be refused recognition by another local union in the very near future. The tendency has been recently to make the matter of transfer cards local, or subject to the decision of a local union. We find that the local union membership in many instances is narrow and selfish. The great principle upon which the International Union is founded, involving the recognition of transfer cards, must always prevail over and above any local prejudices or desires. We regret that unemployment prevails and that almost every local union is confronted with some such condition. We also find that there are in many instances a number of hangers-on around offices and hiring halls who are not the quality of men required by employers, and if a competent person comes from another city with a paid up due book and a transfer card, as a matter of courtesy and in accordance with our law, the transfer card should be recognized and the individual should be given an opportunity of employment, in accordance with the principles upon which our International Union was founded. Local unions closing their eyes to this important part of our International laws cannot remain in affiliation with this International Union, and pending any final severance of their relations if they continue to refuse to abide by the decisions made in accordance with this ruling by the General Executive Board, they shall be temporarily deprived of the benefits and privileges of the International Organization. The General Executive Board also desires to inform our local unions who believe that we do not understand their situation, that we are fully informed as to the conditions surrounding each local union and its peculiar environments, but above and beyond all that, comes the International Constitution and the principle upon which our organization was founded, which is the protection and

courtesy of one local union to the membership of another local union as embodied in the transfer card. Brother Camie went into further detail for the information of the Board, explaining the whole situation surrounding the recent Federal indictments against the local union. The local union has been indicted as a part of the campaign made against labor organizations by the individuals having charge of that branch of the Government having to do with the violation or prosecution of trusts and combinations in restraint of trade. From the explanations made by the representative of Local 600 we are quite confident that when the case comes to trial our representatives in Local 600 will be able to prove their innocence of any desire to violate the Federal laws and that they only acted as they believed they were legally entitled to act in the furtherance of the best interests of the membership of their local union. It is impossible to say when this case will come to trial.

The question of wage scales and contracts was brought up. It seems to be the general feeling of our people that at the expiration of each wage scale consideration for the signing of the old wage scale should not be given serious thought, but that continuous additions should be asked to the wage scale. No action was taken on this procedure as it will be discussed at the coming convention of the International Union. However, it is well for our people to understand that in the presenting of wage scales the industry will only bear a certain tariff and if Labor in its impulsiveness or lack of judgment goes beyond that, they are liable to injure both themselves and their employers. The General Executive Board intends to go into this entire matter prior to or during the sessions of the coming Convention.

It was decided that another meeting of the General Executive Board be called before the next Convention in order to prepare for the work of the Convention. It was suggested that the meeting be held sometime in August in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The final date was left in the hands of the General Officers.

The General President made a report to the General Executive Board of the action of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in dealing with the subject matter of a dispute existing for several years pertaining to the jurisdiction of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters over brewery truck drivers. The General President explained that in the last convention of the American Federation of Labor it was definitely understood that if no agreement was brought about by a Committee of Conciliation appointed by the President of the Federation—which committee was empowered to call conferences between the representatives of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the International Union of the United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers—that the charter of the Brewery Workers' Union would be suspended by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. The whole matter was discussed before the Executive Council and the General President asked the Council to carry out the intent and purpose of the Convention, in view of the fact that the Committee on Conciliation had reported to the Executive Council that it was impossible for them to bring about an understanding or agreement. The Executive Council discussed the matter and decided that because of an injunction obtained by the Brewery Workers against the Executive Council they felt it would be unsafe for them to proceed lest some of the members of the Council be charged with contempt or violation of the injunction by Justice Golds-

borough. The General President contended that exactly the same situation obtained during the convention in Cincinnati in October and that the convention very clearly refused to consider the injunction but ordered the Council to proceed. Finally the General President explained to the General Executive Board that the Executive Council failed to act, or, as he interpreted it, failed to carry out what he believed was the expressed direction of the convention of the American Federation of Labor. The General Executive Board of our International Union took full cognizance of this action by the Executive Council and decided upon a certain policy and procedure, and unanimously instructed the General President to sometime before or during the next meeting of the Executive Council, convey the action of the General Executive Board to the President of the American Federation of Labor.

The General President reported that he had asked for a clarification of the decision rendered by the three International Officers, members of the Building Trades Executive Council, who had rendered a decision in the dispute between the Engineers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters over road machinery. First the General President clearly stated that everything the International Union of Operating Engineers had asked was granted by the Arbitration Board; and next he emphasized the fact—and the Board agreed with him after analyzing the situation—that all hauling and trucking of all materials on and off the jobs was given to the Teamsters. The Arbitration Board consisted of William L. Hutcheson, President of the Carpenters' Union; Richard Gray, Secretary of the Bricklayers' Union; and Daniel Tracy, General President of the Electrical Workers' Union. The General President stated he had not published the decision—which he intended to do in the very near future—because he did not understand it and had asked for a clarification and explanation in order that the International Union may be protected against legal procedure either by our members or by our employers. A meeting was held between the Arbitration Board and your International representatives, which included General President Tobin, General Organizers John M. Gillespie, and Thomas Farrell. After explaining our desire for information on certain points the Arbitration Committee took the matters up with the representatives of the Engineers and the points at issue were clarified and explained; although this does not mean by any means that the decision was not against us as a whole. It must also be understood that the International Brotherhood of Teamsters—as did the International Union of Operating Engineers—agreed to abide by the decision of the Arbitration Board. This we intend to do as much as it is possible without involving ourselves in trouble with either our membership or our employers. The Board took full cognizance of the situation as presented by the General President and empowered and instructed him to give as much publicity as possible, through the columns of the Journal, to the decision and to the clarifications, and to ask our members to try and co-operate towards its fulfillment. This dispute has been going on for years, and cannot be adjusted fully in a day or a month. However, we are making progress.

There were several other serious matters discussed in private sessions by the Board. A number of out-of-town members appeared before the Board. To sum up the whole situation, we desire to say to our members that the meeting was both interesting and seriously important.

As usual we had a little dinner, this year in the Roney-Plaza Hotel. All of our out-of-town guests who were full fledged members of the organization, with their wives, were invited to this little social feature. There were thirty-three persons attending the dinner, which was helpful, harmonious and enjoyable.

Plans for our convention were considered and discussed and the General President stated it was his intention to appoint a committee of three or five members from different parts of the country to go over the entire Constitution, for the purpose of revising same and drafting sections which will clarify the present antiquated ones, properly index the Constitution, and bring into the convention something that will help us in our legal proceedings, constructively guide us in our future destiny, and generally make it possible for us to be protected against disgruntled members, against employers, and against the courts. Our national attorney, Joseph Padway, appeared before the General Executive Board and gave many instances of where the Constitution is weak, indirect, conflicting, and advised us that for our safety we must proceed and change the Constitution and make it more thorough and safe against false and prejudiced interpretations either by our enemies or the courts of the land. It is the intention of the General President to call Mr. Padway into the meeting for advice and guidance when that committee is meeting sometime in May for the purposes indicated above. If our members have some sound provision or amendment that would be helpful nationally—not locally—we will be pleased to have the local union send it in for our consideration. We do not promise its adoption. We do promise to give it consideration, and it may help us.

There being no further business before the Board, it adjourned to meet again, as stated above, sometime prior to the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL J. TOBIN,
General President.

Ford Obeys NLRB Curb on Labor Union Views

Boston, Mass.—Officials of the Ford Motor Company announced that the company would comply with a National Labor Relations Board order to stop “disparaging” or “criticizing” labor organizations. The order applied to the Somerville plant and appeared to be aimed at an interview with Henry Ford, head of the company, opposing trade unions, copies of which had been distributed to the firm’s employees.

While agreeing to obey the board’s order, company spokesmen claimed it was not authorized by law and constituted “an invasion of the constitutional rights of free speech.”

General Motors Refuses Unions’ Plan for Voting

Detroit, Mich.—The General Motors Corporation is taking a firm stand to maintain its policy that each of the corporation’s plants is the proper bargaining agent for the employees. This position was emphasized in the corporation’s refusal to agree to a stipulation in which four automobile unions, including the United Automobile Workers of America, A. F. of L. affiliate, joined whereby majorities in employee elections would lump plants for bargaining purposes. The examiner for the National Labor Relations Board adjourned the hearing to give representatives of the unions and the company an opportunity to reach an agreement.—*News Letter*.

AFL Council Condemns Anti-Trust Suits Against Unions

Miami, Fla.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement issued here, condemned the criminal anti-trust suits filed against A. F. of L. unions by Thurman Arnold, Assistant Attorney-General of the United States, as an attempt to place organized labor under “the thumb of the Federal Government” and declared that the Federation would resist them with all the vigor at its command.

Contending that the suits were contrary to the provisions of the Clayton Act, which has been regarded as exempting trade unions from the application of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, the Council said American unions were threatened with the same fate decreed for labor under the autocracies that dominate Italy, Germany and Russia.

Denouncing Assistant Attorney-General Arnold's suits as “the grossest kind of perversion of the law,” the Council declared that “application of the anti-trust laws to unions would inevitably result in government dictatorship over unions and kill free, democratic trade unionism.”

“We will carry the issue to the highest court of the land to prove that the Clayton Act means what it says,” the Council asserted. “If the Supreme Court rules against us, the American Federation of Labor will institute a relentless campaign to have Congress re-invest the law with its original purpose and intention in language that even the wildest lawyer could not innocently or willfully misinterpret.”—*News Letter*.

AFL Demands New Labor Relations Board

Miami, Fla.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, at its mid-winter session here,

declared that labor, industry and the American public “have lost confidence” in the present National Labor Relations Board and reaffirmed the Federation's demand that the present board be abolished, that there be a thorough housecleaning of its staff and that a new board of five members be created.

The Council demanded that Congress enact at this session the bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Walsh and in the House by Representative Barden amending the National Labor Relations Act.

“Disclosures before the special House committee investigating the Labor Board have justified and confirmed the charges of bias and maladministration directed against the board by the Federation of Labor,” the Council declared.

“The evidence has made clear to all what we have known for a long time: that the present board and its staff are totally unfit for their important duties, that this government agency has never been an impartial umpire, but has guilefully and deliberately sought to destroy the American Federation of Labor and promote the interests of the CIO.

“The record of the board's bias, stupidity and incompetence has become so overwhelming as to call for drastic action to save the National Labor Relations Act from being undermined and destroyed by its own administrators.”

Employers Are Asked to Pay Workers on Army Duty

New York, N. Y.—The executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce of New York adopted a declaration urging its members to adopt the policy of giving employees time off without deductions from pay or regular vacations for duty in the National Guard.



EDITORIAL



(By DANIEL J. TOBIN)

I TRUST that our people reading the written attacks made by the columnist Westbrook Pegler, will pay no attention to the charges against the American Federation of Labor contained in same. First let me say that Westbrook Pegler is one of the most able and convincing and fearless writers of any that I know of. Next let me say that Mr. Pegler writes that which he feels the public will read. Columnists are no good as newspaper writers unless their stuff is read by the public. Some of the men of Labor on the side of the American Federation of Labor are of the opinion that the C. I. O. is indirectly responsible for the writings. Others believe that hateful employers are behind it all. There is more than one way in which this would be possible. Personally, knowing the record of Pegler as a writer, I am not inclined to believe this analysis of the situation, although it is quite easy to reach this conclusion when it is noticed that not one word has been uttered against any of the C. I. O. unions. Surely there can be men found by an expert analyst such as Mr. Pegler, in the C. I. O. line-up, or in any other large organization, who could draw the unfavorable criticism of a columnist. To the average person reading the articles denouncing the American Federation of Labor, one would assume that it was quite a handicap and nothing to be proud of to be affiliated and chartered by the American Federation of Labor. I trust our membership will not reach any such conclusion, because if that reasoning was adopted the same reasoning could be pursued insofar as our International Union is concerned. As an example, we may have one or two men who would go wrong in Chicago, New York, or Los Angeles, and a clever writer like Mr. Pegler, complying with the thirst of the public who like to read the bad things about Labor, could almost convince the untrained and uninformed minds of the nation that all of the work of our International Union was wrong. In view of the fact that we are a part of the American Federation of Labor we feel that an explanation on our part is necessary.

First let me say that the American Federation of Labor has nothing whatever to do with the selection of the officers of International Unions. We would not permit the Federation to dictate our affairs in the running of our organization or in the selection of our officers. That principle was the foundation stone of the American Federation of Labor when it was instituted. It is true that the American Federation of Labor could recommend the expulsion from its membership of an organization that was controlled by racketeers or dishonest individuals, but again, in order to be exceptionally careful and in order to protect the International Unions affiliated with it from prejudice or hatreds or unjust dealings, the American Federation of Labor has inserted in its Constitution a clause which reads that it takes a two-thirds vote of the Convention of the Federation to revoke the charter of an affiliated organization, and a majority vote to suspend the charter of an organization, and the charter can only be suspended or revoked by a convention of the Federation. In between conventions the Executive Council cannot suspend the charter of an affiliated International Union except they have an order to do so under certain conditions by a previous convention. It is entirely different with an International Union and its power over its local unions. The Constitution

of an International Union is usually drafted giving the International Executive Board power to discipline and suspend if necessary any local union. The American Federation of Labor is just what its name implies, a federation; that is, organizations joined together for the purpose of helping each other, and mainly for the purpose of acting as a unit in protecting the workers of the nation against adverse legislative action and inaugurating and establishing beneficial laws for the workers, both in state and nation.

Some of our readers may wonder why the Federation does not bring suit against a writer who makes such desperate charges against its officers, and as a matter of fact against its membership as a whole. It might be well to state here that it is difficult to prosecute a writer or a newspaper, as they have an almost unlimited right guaranteed them under the Constitution. The words "free speech" and "free press" are interpreted as almost limitless by the courts in favor of newspapers and newspaper writers. If it could be shown, however, that the American Federation of Labor was injured financially by the writing of Mr. Pegler, both himself and the papers publishing his articles could be called to account before the courts. Of course the Federation has not suffered any financial loss. And then again the charges made by Mr. Pegler against one or two individuals holding offices in International Unions would have to be disproven in court, and the articles are so cleverly written by this very able writer, and the charges made in such a way that it would be difficult to convince a jury that the writer was not within his rights. As a member of the Executive Council I favored the Federation giving greater publicity to its position in answer to the charges made in the series of articles written by Mr. Pegler. A majority of the Executive Council, however, took a different view. This writer favored going on the radio, paying for it, and explaining in detail to the masses of the public the work of the Federation and the great good it has done for the masses of the workers, etc. The Executive Council did not agree with this position. This writer favored paying for front page space in the newspapers, if necessary, in order to get the position of the Federation and its great humanitarian work for the millions of unorganized as well as the organized, before the public eye. I favored cutting down the expenditures in other directions by the Federation and putting that money into publicity. A majority of the Executive Council took a different attitude. Why did they take this attitude? Some believed the more attention given this writer's attacks, the greater publicity would be given the writer. Others believed it would be impossible to get our side of the question before the public. I substantially and emphatically disagreed with both explanations. Others believed that to continue to answer Mr. Pegler in a series of articles might arouse him, his bitterness and his ability, and might bring about attacks on other leaders in the Labor Movement. With all the above reasons I disagreed. The majority of the Executive Council, however, disagreed with my opinion, and the majority may be right. One thing is certain; that the articles written by Mr. Pegler have injured the American Federation of Labor substantially, because the uninformed public, the masses of the unorganized, believe nearly everything they read, and even if they do not believe it in its entirety there is an impression left in the brain of the average reader which causes that reader to think and doubt the whole work of the Federation. Picking out two or three officers of International Unions and, because of some offense committed years ago, holding them up as an example of

the kind of men who lead the American Federation of Labor, is of course entirely unjust, and no one knows this better than Mr. Pegler, because he is able, brilliant and courageous. He worked as a newsboy in Chicago selling newspapers and has come to the top from the very bottom. He lived in Chicago during the days of the struggles of Labor. He lived in Chicago in the days when the membership of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was being bought and sold by thieving employers and petty racketeering business agents, and he has seen the rank and file, through their officers, come up from the very bottom to positions of independence and safety in employment. When Mr. Pegler sold newspapers in Chicago the Truck Drivers of Local 705 were working for nine dollars a week, twelve hours a day; the Milk Drivers for about the same thing; the Newspaper Drivers, with which he was acquainted, getting only little more than that. Today those organizations are earning an average of fifty dollars a week, enjoying the eight-hour day, and have splendid conditions all around. Wrongdoers have been removed from the organizations in nearly every instance, and the price that was paid for such removal was the blood of the men in our Movement. The same is true all over the nation, and if amongst our 450,000 members there are a few who are not lily white holding local positions, it would be unjust to smear the good name of the entire International Union. Mr. Pegler, of course, has not done this with our International Union. We merely recite it in endeavoring to explain the unanswered and unjust statements made against the American Federation of Labor because we are a part of the American Federation of Labor and have been somewhat instrumental and helpful, in the days of Gompers and all down the years, in holding its face to the wind and fighting its enemies within and without the Labor Movement. It is true very often we have disagreed with its policies, and we now disagree with some of its actions and policies, but this is not sufficient reason for us to permit untrue statements about the Federation to go unanswered and unchallenged, especially as many of our members request us to try and explain, so they in turn can explain. Silence is sometimes interpreted as guilt.

We trust that our members and our friends will realize and understand and remember the great humanitarian work accomplished by the American Federation of Labor in all the years of its fighting, struggling history. Its great achievements are innumerable and we have not space to print same, but the Federation advocated and was successful in bringing about free text books in the public schools of our country, making it possible for Mr. Pegler's children and my children to get an education at the lowest possible price when we ourselves were deprived of same. The American Federation of Labor has abolished religious prejudice in our country, at least amongst its membership. The American Federation of Labor first championed laws establishing women's rights. It was the champion of the shorter work day, taking a load off the backs of the men of Labor who were crippled by long hours and starvation wages. It has been successful, through its continuous fight, in cleaning out some of the rotten conditions obtaining in political parties, where corporations, or the men who controlled wealth, also controlled the government. By its agitation and fearless fighting it has revolutionized the courts of our country and placed on the bench honest men who observe their oath of allegiance and faithfulness to our government. The American Federation of Labor, in the dark hours in which our nation was confronted with the

European War, gave everything it had—money, labor, blood, life, everything—to our country to preserve the freedom for which men fought and died. But why go on? Why should we have to mention other matters? The very freedom that we now enjoy has been protected and preserved and will be continued only by the organizations of the workers, and amongst them, leading them for the preservation of justice, freedom and the abolition of hatreds, will be the American Federation of Labor.

One thing is certain; the organization of the workers will not be destroyed by any one or a dozen writers. If it is destroyed or rendered helpless it will be by division within itself, for which only a very few leaders are responsible. Pegler works for a living as a writer. He must deliver the goods. I honestly believe he would not destroy labor even if he could. It is my opinion he should be answered, not by calling names but by informing the public of his misstatements and by explaining the great good done by the American Federation of Labor during the past fifty years.

THE Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent meeting in Miami, Florida, refused to suspend the charter of the Brewery Workers because they are afraid of the injunction which the Brewery Workers have obtained against the American Federation of Labor, although this injunction was in existence and in the same position that it is now when the convention of the American Federation of Labor, in session in Cincinnati, practically instructed the Executive Council, by an almost unanimous vote, to suspend the charter of the Brewery Workers if no settlement was reached in the meantime.

BEFORE you have any sympathy for the A. F. of L. or the C. I. O., and before you consider what you should do to help them—and we are doing our best to bring them together—we suggest that you consider this International Union by whom you are employed and who made conditions for you. The first consideration of all of our members, especially our salaried officers, should be for our International Brotherhood, its preservation, its honor, its dignity and its progress.

WHATEVER else you may be guilty of, don't be guilty of imbibing any kind of stimulants or intoxicating liquor during your hours of work. That is an unpardonable sin, and I say it because not only are you endangering your own life but the lives of the public; and one who is guilty of violating this rule has no defense. After work if you believe you need a stimulant, the time is your own. You are a free man. But be sure you do not destroy the health and the body that God has given you so that you will render it helpless and useless for your employment next day. Remember now when you are young, "That for every abuse of the human system nature will take its toll."

DELEGATES to the conventions of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters are considered as officers. Their election should take place the same as the election of any other officer. If there is opposition, election should be by secret ballot. If there is no opposition, the election can take place by a "yes and no" note.

PAY your dues promptly; in advance if possible. The greatest investment that you and I ever made is our investment in the union. However, do not make the mistake of thinking that the union can tip the world over in a day, in a month, or in a year. Unions are not all powerful, and, as stated on another page, many of our unions have reached the point of saturation. In other words, we must wait until industry comes up to us and adjusts itself before we can go much further insofar as some of the top-notch wage contracts obtaining in some of our large cities are concerned. What we should do now is concentrate on shortening the weekly number of hours without reducing wages. We must reduce hours if we expect to spread employment. The selfishness of our members, however, in many places has indicated that men would rather receive one dollar a week more than to reduce the number of hours per week. Where we have a number of our good, faithful, old-time members out of work some consideration ought to be given by the members in the local unions, to spreading the work. In many of the branches of our trade seniority is not practical because we have no age limit as to retirement, therefore with seniority obtaining a man could continue to work until he was seventy. We must provide some means for the younger men of twenty-five to thirty years of age finding employment. Local union officers should have the courage to educate the members along those lines. Yes, I repeat because I know, that the selfishness of the fellows who have jobs is so thoroughly united that it is difficult to do anything that would deprive them of a little salary in order to spread the work.

I NOTICED in the papers recently that Mr. Weir of the Republic Steel Corporation has been chosen as Treasurer of the National Republican Campaign Committee. This man has fought the C. I. O. or the Steel Workers' Union to the very bitter end, even to taking them into court and obtaining a decision against the steel workers. What he has done to the C. I. O. he would have done to the A. F. of L. Weir and those he represents hate in their hearts with all possible bitterness all and every kind of trade unions. How can John L. Lewis support the Republican Committee with this kind of a man as one of the top dictators in the Republican Party? Of course, if William Hutcheson, General President of the Carpenters' Union decides to go along with Weir, we are satisfied that the rank and file of the carpenters will not follow him.

The Republicans will make a mistake unless they nominate a Progressive Republican against one of the old-time dyed-in-the-wool Republicans such as Jim Watson or Herbert Hoover. Mr. Taft, who seems to be carrying on quite a campaign, will not represent the Progressive Republicans who favor a square deal for the workers. Dewey, in my judgment, would perhaps be the strongest candidate, because any man who could almost defeat Governor Lehman of New York, would be a strong and dangerous candidate. Dewey represents the younger element of the Republican Party. Any Republican coming from East of Pennsylvania, except perhaps the State of Vermont, would be much more successful than those coming from the Middle Western States. The record of Taft's father as President of the United States—the injunction judge—would be a serious handicap to Mr. Taft, a corporation lawyer.

This year is a Republican year and the Democrats will have to watch their step and use their very best timber or else they will be swamped, that is, unless we have a condition in Europe which may be extremely dangerous, and it appears at the present time as though that condition is brewing.

WE HAVE just received word that the men driving in the hay and grain industry in the vicinity of Los Angeles have gone over to the C. I. O. union because they believe they can save \$1.00 a month in dues. We have minimum dues of \$2.00 a month in each of our local unions; \$1.70 of which stays in the treasury of the local union, only 30 cents of it going to the International Union. The C. I. O. offers cut rates in many cities and their dues are only \$1.00 a month. Of course, the hay and grain industry is almost extinct, but cut rates, competition and trying to induce one body of men to leave one organization and go into another is bad business. What happens today in any A. F. of L. union will happen tomorrow in some C. I. O. union. If nothing else results from a conference between the rival factions representing the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O., at least, a line of demarcation could be drawn or a discussion could take place on the question of raiding each other's membership, or especially encouraging members because of cut-rates or because of dissatisfaction or agitation created by a few disgruntled members, they might decide to leave one organization and go into another. This phase of the question failing final settlement could be discussed even if not adjusted. We do not, and never did believe in splitting up unions. For instance, if the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen should have a disagreement in some of their locals we would oppose a charter to them by the A. F. of L. Bad business, this opening the door to disgruntled men.

Doesn't Want War

America is a peaceful nation.

Its people do not want to enter into any international political squabble which will involve them in a war which is not necessary to their own continued freedom.

They are not interested in policing the world and forcing their own particular ideas of democracy, civilization or religion upon another people.

America is a brave nation. It intends to protect its own against any aggressor.

That is why our forebears came to the New World . . . to get away from the incessant recurrence of these problems in the Old World.

If America can stand as a light to guide the peoples of the world to a more democratic, civilized form of

government "for the people, by the people and of the people," it has served its purpose as far as its own citizens are concerned, provided it is prepared at all times to protect that government from destruction by forces from without or within.—*Mississippi Labor Federationist, Jackson, Miss.*

Soviet Union Expelled From World Labor Body

Geneva, Switzerland.—The Governing Body of the International Labor Organization, in session here, voted to expel Soviet Russia from the I. L. O. The Governing Body followed the example of the League of Nations, which excluded the Russian Government last December following its invasion of Finland.



CORRESPONDENCE



Mr. Daniel J. Tobin, President,
International Brotherhood of Team-
sters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen &
Helpers of America,
222 E. Michigan St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Brother Tobin:

I find myself unable to command words forceful enough to fully say how much I admire and endorse your editorial in our Journal, pointing out the undeniable fact that organized Labor is merely cutting its own throat by remaining divided in hostile camps. The editorial was so packed with incontrovertible logic, it is certain to have wide-spread effect toward unity in Labor's ranks.

A quarter century ago I joined Local No. 333, I. B. of T. C. S. & H. of A. at Bloomington, Ill., and have been in constant good standing ever since. I saw my own wages jump from \$10.50 to \$31 a week, with Saturday afternoon off, protection on the job and standardized conditions of employment before I moved from that city to St. Louis in 1922.

My union card revolutionized my life to economic betterment and to intellectual development. The educational effect of my activity in the general Labor movement finally enabled me to edit a Labor paper, despite the fact that I only received a third grade education in school. Innumerable are the members who have been helped in a like and even much greater manner.

Therefore, I am inexpressibly pained as I look to the future and see clouds hanging over the great Move-

ment I so love, all as a result of a divided Labor front.

I tremble at the thought of going into this year's election campaign with our strength divided. My experience has been that we have to work like blazes to win on the political field without any split in our ranks—what will it be with us fighting among ourselves and calling one another ugly names?

But can we win the 1940 battle with our forces torn apart and tearing at each other's throats? I do not care a thing for party labels; I never followed a straight ticket in my life.

Since our great Union (with a great leader) has become the largest and strongest in the A. F. of L., your remarkably fine editorial is certain to carry unusual weight.

While the possibilities for a United Labor Movement with 8,000,000 members under one banner would be almost unlimited, I see practically unlimited dangers ahead for us on the industrial, the political and the legislative field if we remain divided into hostile sections.

I loathe flattery and I do not indulge in it toward others. But I say with all sincerity and candor that you have again proved yourself abundantly worthy of the honored position you hold.

Again commending your editorial as strongly as a feeble typewriter can, I beg to remain

Fraternally,

MARTIN A. DILLMON,

Recording Secretary,
Local No. 751.

COURT cases are expensive and therefore we never seek relief within the courts. As an example, the court expenses of the proceedings because of the action of the Brewery Workers, and their attorneys, the American Federation of Labor will have to pay about \$7,500.00 for printing the Transcript of Record for the United States Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia. To my mind, any local union, or individual, bringing the International Union or the Local Union into court should be made to pay the expense caused the local or the International before they are allowed to return to membership. In the same sense, the Brewery Workers' International Union should be made to refund to the American Federation of Labor all the expenses forced upon the Federation because of the Brewery Workers bringing the American Federation of Labor into the Federal courts before they should be considered in good standing with the American Federation of Labor. This, in addition to their guarantee, that they would abide by the decisions of the American Federation of Labor in its conventions relative to the jurisdiction of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which grants the Teamsters jurisdiction over truck drivers and helpers employed by breweries and brewery agencies.

WE RECEIVE many complaints from the wives of deceased members because the local union fails to pay the mortuary benefit. In nearly every instance the failure to pay the benefit was due to the fact that the member who had passed away was not in good standing or had not complied with the rules of the local union.

For a number of years we have advocated the establishment of a national mortuary benefit, but, like many other recommendations, it has failed of adoption because of the lack of vision on the part of some and the desire to stay "where we are" by others. The establishment of a mortuary benefit in the International would mean that this benefit would be covered by our general laws and that when a member passed away the members of his family would be protected by the International, and sure of their just benefits.

Several of our local unions went broke during the financial crash, but the International remained as solid financially as the Rock of Gibraltar. During a strike local unions spend their last dollar and sometimes go heavily in debt. There is no protection then for the deceased member's family. In addition to this, it would prove the great binding link which would center the minds of the individual members and their families on the International Union. No matter how strong local unions may be in their districts today, a year from now because of their endeavor to maintain their existence or because of their fight to preserve their unity and working conditions, they may become impoverished. Like the Federal Government, the International Union stands as the protecting pillar of the local unions. Personally, it means nothing to me whether or not the International will see the light at the next convention and establish and create a national mortuary benefit, but from the standpoint of trade unionism and knowing the weaknesses as well as the strength of our International Union, I hope and trust, for the sake of the International and its continued solidarity, that the delegates to our next convention will stand instructed by their locals to vote for and insist on the creation of a national mortuary benefit.

Official Magazine of the
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
of TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS
STABLEMEN and HELPERS
of America**

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